IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Bahramian et al. Appl. No: 09/472/558

File Date: December 27, 1999

Invention: MUTING GENE ACTIVITY USING A TRANSGENIC NUCLEIC ACID

Art Unit: 1632

Examiner: Paras, Peter Jr.

Docket No.: 2498/101, formerly 2281/102

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231, to Examiner Peter Paras, Art Unit 1632, fax number (703) 308-4242, telephone number (703) 308-8340, on February 13, 2003.

Barbara J. Catter, Ph.D.

Honorable Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE, TO ACCOMPANY REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Dear Sir:

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for telephone conferences during prosecution of the above-referenced patent application. In reply to the advisory action of February 5, 2003, Applicants offer the following amendments and remarks, to accompany the enclosed Request for Continued Examination. In addition, this amendment has been formatted according to the revised amendment format that the United States Patent and Trademark Office expects to adopt for 37 CFR 1.121 (Manner of Making Amendments), per the January 13, 2003 "Pre-OG Notice" posted on the website for the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Steven Kunin, Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy.

Prior to issuing an Office Action on the accompanying Request for Continued Examination in the above-referenced patent application, other than a Notice of Allowance, Applicants seek an interview with Examiner Peter Paras, Jr. and Primary Examiner Michael Wilson